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217-~~229~~ East Main Street (Masonic Lodge)
217-219 East Main Street
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-134 A

HABS
IND,
39-MAD,
28-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

219
217-~~229~~ East Main Street--

(Masonic Lodge)

HABS No. IN-134A

HABS
IND,
39-MAD,
28-

Location: 217-219 East Main Street, Madison, Jefferson County,
Indiana

Present Owner: Trustees of the Masonic Lodge

Present Occupant: Masonic Lodge on upper floors; Steinhardt-Hanson on first
floor

Present Use: Lodge and office supply store

Significance: The Masonic building in the Second Empire style dominates
this row of excellent surviving examples of mid-to-late
nineteenth-century commercial architecture.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: 1871-1872. The events surrounding the building of this Masonic Temple are well recorded in both the local newspapers and the Masonic Temple Record of Minutes of Masonic Meetings. The cornerstone was laid on April 12, 1871, and the building dedicated on May 16, 1872.
2. Architect: John R. Temperley. The records of the Masonic Lodge of Madison show that J.R. Temperley was the architect of this structure and was paid \$835 for plans and specifications of the structure. J.R. Temperley was born in 1831 as the first son of Matthew Temperley (1805-1861), architect of the Washington Fire Company #2 in 1848-1849 (HABS No. IN-134), and the original Madison Episcopal Church in 1837 (see Christ Episcopal Church, HABS No. IN-123). J.R. Temperley was trained by his father, and was listed in the Madison Directory of 1859-1860 as an independent carpenter. By 1867, he had associated with G.W.W. Woodfill under the partnership of Temperley and Woodfill, carpenters and builders, located on Mulberry Street near the present Vaughn Drive. In 1871, the year the Masonic Temple was begun, J.R. Temperley was listed in the Madison Directory in association with G.W. Short and Company, carpenters and builders, who were the contractors for the Masonic Temple. It is not known if Temperley worked with G.W. Short and Company for this single project or not. The 1872-1873, 1875 and 1879 Directories of Madison show Temperley again as an independent "architect, builder, and contractor," so it may be that J.R. Temperley was employed by G.W. Short and Company to aid in the supervision of the work on the

Masonic Lodge. The last reference to Temperley appears in the 1879 Directory, and it is believed that he moved from Madison with his wife and five children shortly afterwards. John R. Temperley is not to be confused with his brothers Richard, Joseph, and William, who were all carpenters in Madison, and worked for their brother in his association with G.W.W. Woodfill. Other than the Masonic Temple, no other buildings are known at present to be the work of J.R. Temperley.

3. Original and subsequent owners: The legal description of the property is part of lot 64 in the Original Platt (Old Town) in the City of Madison, Indiana. The following deed references may be located in the Recorder's Office at the Jefferson County Courthouse, Madison, Indiana:

1871 Commissioners Deed, dated June 24, 1871; recorded in Deed Book 35, page 203 on November 22, 1873. Charles Kirbly, acting as the Court appointed guardian of Martha C. Hunt (on the request of the petition of Simeon Hunt, her father) sold the title to the property to the Trustees of the Masonic Lodge for \$2500.

4. Builders, contractors, suppliers, etc: The records of the Masonic Lodge show the following disbursements for services rendered by those listed below on the construction of the Masonic Building as of February 8, 1872:

John Petery and George W. Short, Jr. were paid \$18,000 "as per contract" on the account of the construction of the lodge as its builders.

Paul Braun was paid \$347.77 for "laying gas pipe" and installing the fixtures.

Cobb and Stribling, iron founders, were paid \$33.45 "for castings."

Other contractors and suppliers are unknown. The total cost of the structure was listed as \$25,132.70.

5. Original plans and construction: The Masonic Lodge is a nice example of the Second Empire Style of architecture applied to a strictly urban-commercial site and surroundings. The Lodge was built to accommodate rental spaces for stores and offices on the first and second floor, with the facilities for the Lodge located on the third floor. The third-floor lodge rooms consist of two large meeting halls, with small storage and antae rooms located

between. The front hall, or 'Blue Room' features a fine vaulted ceiling, while the rear hall is much more plain. The access to the third floor is gained by a wonderful stairway composition from the lobby of the second floor. The second floor of the lodge originally was arranged for office rental space, and was a preferred location for many of Madison's attorneys. The offices were arranged off of the central hall-lobby. The first floor of the lodge was built as two commercial rental spaces, both being a large, single room for retail sales, with a balconied office space (at the rear) raised above the salesfloor. Storage areas for retail stock are located behind and below this raised office platform.

The Lodge was constructed using many of the standard details of the Second Empire style, including curved window cap pediments, iron crestings and colonnettes. The mansard roof originally was pierced by eight chimneys (four on the west, and four on the east), and featured cast-iron urns at the corners, with iron cresting on the roofline. Of special note on the facade of the building are the stone ball and water-leaf capitals of the small colonnettes that set off the storefronts of the first floor, which are beautiful examples of the talents of local stone cutters.

6. Alterations and additions: The Lodge has undergone a number of alterations to its original design. In 1916-1918, a large hot water coal furnace was installed in the basement of the building, which necessitated the construction of a large brick chimney on the western facade. Also at this time, the addition of a small one-story brick storehouse for the commercial businesses on the first floor was constructed against the exterior of the west wall. Toilets were installed in the building and some of the office spaces on the second floor were converted into the present kitchen and dining rooms. The other offices on the second floor were taken over for the use of the lodge at this time. In 1978, the present elevator was installed for the use of the members.
- B. Historical Context: The Masonic Order in Madison is the direct descendant of the organization begun in the earliest years of the Town of Madison. Interest in the Masonic Order was strong among these early inhabitants, and the representatives of nine Lodges met on January 12, 1818, in Madison to organize the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Indiana. (A longstanding tradition in Madison states that this caucus of Masons met in the second-floor room of the Robinson-Schofield house in Madison (HABS No. IN-82), located at the corner of Poplar and Second Streets. The tradition is not supported by documentary evidence, but was a strong enough tradition to have allowed the expenditure of great sums of money to restore the house as a museum and Masonic Shrine).

The Madison Masonic Union Lodge #2 met in various places in its early days, but built a new lodge building on the site of the log structure used previously, and dedicated the new structure on June 24, 1826. The Masonic Order continued to grow in Madison throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, necessitating the construction of the building in 1871-1872. The 1826 Lodge, located near the site of the present City Hall on West Street, was demolished and sold for scrap in 1871. While dismantling the old building, the original cornerstone was uncovered, which contained documents, coins and newspapers, as well as a copper plate dating from the original Masonic Lodge Building of 1821, signed by the engraver John McIntyre. The contents of this cornerstone were placed in the cornerstone of the present building along with documents and newspapers pertaining to its construction.

The lot for the present building was purchased on June 24, 1871 from Simeon Hunt, although the cornerstone of the building was laid three months earlier on April 13, 1871. Construction of the building by John Petery and G.W. Short progressed rapidly to the designs of the architect, J.R. Temperley, and the building was dedicated on May 16, 1872. When completed, the new lodge housed three separate organizations: the Union Lodge #2 of Free and Accepted Masons; the Composite Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons; and, the Madison Royal Arch Chapter #1 of Jefferson County. Today, the lodge serves the same organizations, and has added the Madison Commandery of the Knights Templar and the Madison Chapter #530 of the Order of Eastern Star.

While the Masonic Building served the needs of the Masonic lodges in town, it also contained office and commercial spaces for a great number of professional services and retail businesses. Below is a list of these occupants, as recorded in the Madison City Directory in the year after the lodge was built:

1872-1873 J.Y. Allison and William T. Friedley, attorneys at law
 E.G. Leland and Vincent Kirk, attorneys
 J.W. Linck, attorney and Justice of the Peace
 A.D. Vanosal, attorney, and bounty and pension agent
 J.J. Siddall, insurance agent
 J.W. Senior, real estate
 C.O. Page & Co., hardware store (first floor)
 F.W. Habizel, wholesale and retail liquors, canned
 canned goods (first floor)

The second-floor offices of the lodge were taken over for use by the Masonic Lodge ca. 1916-1918. The first floor has remained a commercial space since the building was constructed.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

- a. Records of the Madison Union Lodge #2 F.&A.M. In possession of the Lodge. Pertinent facts and information from these were provided by Jim Rogers, the present Worshipful Master of the Lodge.
- b. Notes on the Madison Masonic History, provided by Frank Bird, a local historian.

2. Secondary and published sources:

- a. Madison Daily Courier: May 11, 1826; July 27, 1870; March 18, 1871; April 12, 1871; May 16, 1871.
- b. Smith, Dwight L., Goodly Heritage (Indianapolis: Grand Lodge of Indiana, 1968).
- c. Directories of the City of Madison (published by various companies): 1859-1860; 1867; 1871-1872; 1872-1873; 1875; 1879.

Prepared by: John Linn Hopkins
Project Historian
Summer, 1978

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This structure, with others, forms a part of an excellent row of Main Street commercial buildings.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The three-and-a-half-story building measures approximately 54' (three-bay front on first floor, seven-bay front on the second and third floors) x 85'.
2. Foundation: Stone, with watertable on west wall, plastered.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Common-bond brick, painted gray, with stone pilasters at the front corners. There is a stone string course at the line of the pediment of the second-floor windows on the second-floor front facade. Pilasters on each side

of the center doorway extend to the third floor. There is an ornate gable pediment at the top of the pilasters with a large Masonic emblem on the tympanum, and brackets each side.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick walls and wooden framing.
5. Chimneys: There is a large brick chimney projecting from the face of the building on the west wall and extending up through the roof.
6. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: There is a small sheet-metal covered enclosure on the northwest corner of the building leading into the cellar. There are two stone areaways on the west alley side that are closed up with a metal plate across them. On the west side of the building, near the rear, is an iron fire escape. From the second and third floors there is a metal stairway and platform that ends above grade, and there is a metal ladder extending down to grade.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The mansard roof has slate shingles and metal ridge caps.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: On each side of the projecting pediment is a boxed cornice with closely spaced console brackets and a string molding under the brackets.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: The dormers have segmental-arched roofs, each with a boxed cornice returning on the sides and ending at the roof intersection.
8. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance to the lodge is in the center of the south facade and leads into a stairway. The deeply recessed doorway is splayed on each side and has wooden surrounds. The door is a wood-framed glass panel. There is a transom above the recess, on the face of the building, with an inscription "Masonic Building." Above the transom is a curved pediment with a Masonic emblem on the tympanum.

On each side of the center entrance there is a recessed entrance to the commercial space, flanked on each side with display windows. This doorway and display is a modern aluminum storefront with wooden panels under the display windows.

At the west side of the building, near the rear, is a double doorway with wooden surrounds, wooden threshold, stone sill and a one-light, top-hinged transom panel. The wooden doors above a large glass panel. There is a doorway on the second floor leading onto the fire escape. The doorway has wooden surrounds, stone sill and head, roll molding on the edge of the surrounds, a wooden transom panel and a wooden panel door.

- b. Windows: Wooden windows on the first floor have four-over-four-light double-hung sash, wooden surrounds and stone sills. Wooden windows on the second and third floors and attic dormers have two-over-two-light double-hung sash, with wooden surrounds and stone sills with scroll brackets underneath. There is a roll molding around the perimeter of the windows on the exterior and a heavy molded wood trim inside. The second-floor windows on the front have a rounded metal pediment with a horizontal cornice, with brackets at each side of the pediment. The third-floor windows are the same, but there is no horizontal cornice. There are some openings on the north facade, first floor, that are filled with glass block.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Cellar: There is a stone cellar that is used for storage and is reached through a stairway in the commercial space under the main stair to the second floor.
- b. First floor: The first floor has a center hall with stairway, and showroom space on either side. The two showroom spaces are connected by openings under the stairs. There is a small office balcony at the rear of the east side.
- c. Second floor: There is a center stairhall with meeting rooms on each side, offices across the front and a dining room and kitchen at the rear.
- d. Third floor: There is one large lodge room (across the rear of the building) and another across the front. The hallway in the center connects the two with small storage and ante rooms.

- 2. Stairways: The main stairway in the center of the building is enclosed. There is a large landing about halfway up the stairs, and an iron rail on the wall at each side. At the second floor there is a wooden banister around the opening, which extends from a newel post at each side, curving and extending across the back of the opening. The molded wooden handrail has turned balusters.

The stairway to the third floor is an open-string half-turn stair. The molded wooden handrail supported by turned balusters extends from a large newel post on the second floor, curving at the first landing, continuing to the second landing, curving again and extending to the third floor, where it curves and ends at the wall. There is a short, closed-string wooden stairway leading to the attic from the third floor that has a vertical board wooden rail.

3. Flooring: Flooring on the first floor is covered with asphalt tile. The floors on the second floor are covered with asphalt tile. On the third floor the wooden floors are covered with carpet and asphalt tile.
4. Walls and ceiling finish: Walls on the first floor have vinyl wallpaper over plaster on the walls and acoustical tile. There are plaster walls and ceilings, painted, on the second and third floors. There are plaster ceiling flowers on the third floor, south lodge room. The dormer windows are in the vaulted ceiling of the north lodge room and there is a pendant at four corners with a light fixture hanging from it.
5. Doorways and doors: Wooden, double-raised panel doors have wooden roll moldings around the panels, wooden surrounds with a plinth block, roll moldings at the edge of the trim and a center parting two-light hinged transom panel. Some doors have wooden thresholds. Some of the doors have glass panels in the upper portion.
6. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: Steam heating with radiators.
 - b. Lighting: Modern lighting fixtures.
 - c. Elevator in the southwest corner of the building.
- D. Site: The building, facing south, sits on the north side of East Main Street and on the alley at the west. There are commercial structures on the east and across the street to the south. There are some modern additions on the rear of the building.

Prepared by: John P. White
Project Supervisor
July 1978

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with Historic Madison, Inc., and the Indiana Historical Society. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief, H.A.B.S., and Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1978 at the Historic American Buildings Survey Field Office, Madison, Indiana, by John P. White, Project Supervisor (Associate Professor, Texas Tech University); John Hopkins, Project Historian (Skidmore College); and Student Assistant Architects Richard Berlinger (Rhode Island School of Design); Jon Lourie (University of Maryland); Eric Swanson (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute); and Peter Whitehead (State University of New York at Buffalo). The written data were edited by Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, in December, 1984.